

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are responsive to the office action of November 13, 2003. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

By this Amendment claims 1, 6, 8, 10-23 and 25 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2-5, 7, 9 and 24 remain in this application. Claims 2-5 and 24 have been amended to more clearly recite subject matter Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 7 and 9 have been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their respective base claims, which are respectively claims 6 and 8 as discussed with the Examiner and noted in the Office Action. New claims 26-52 have been added. The basis for the amendments and new claims can be found in the specification and drawings as originally filed.

Further, by this amendment the hyperlink “<http://www.cnn.com>” on page 6 of the specification has been removed, and references to “Fig. 6A” in the specification have been changed to “Fig. 6.”

Specification Amendments

The Office Action objected to the disclosure because it contained the hyperlink “<http://www.cnn.com>” on page 6, line 15 of the specification. This hyperlink has been removed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

The Office Action objected to the drawings because they fail to show Fig. 6A as described in the specification on page 5, line 1. The specification has been amended to correctly refer to Fig. 6 on page 5, line 1, rather than to Fig. 6A. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this objection be withdrawn.

In addition, the reference to “Figs. 3-6” on page 4, line 26 of the specification has been amended to correctly refer to “Figs. 3-5.” The corrections related to the figures comport with the Detailed Description of Preferred Embodiments, such as the discussion accompanying Figs. 3-6 on pages 12-14 of the specification.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

Claims 3, 6, 7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention. While Applicant does not concede or admit that these rejections are proper, in order to expedite prosecution and to facilitate allowance of this application, various claim amendments are made herein. Claim 6 has been cancelled. Claim 3 has been amended to add the ostensibly omitted verb “send,” as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 7 and 9 have been amended to correct claim dependencies by rewriting them in independent form to include the subject matter of their respective base claims in accordance with the telephone interview referenced in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §102(e) Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 6, 8 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,571,296 to Dillon (Dillon). While Applicant does not concede or admit that these rejections are proper, claims 1, 6 and 8 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections to claims 2 and 24.

Dillon discloses a system in which a hybrid terminal has two IP addresses corresponding to completely different physical networks assigned to it. The first IP address corresponds to an Internet connection provider (SLIP provider) and the second IP address corresponds to a satellite system. *See e.g.*, Dillon, col. 4, lines 42-59. Dillon, however, does not teach or suggest that the hybrid terminal issues requests for web pages using an address of the satellite system as a source address of the requests.

To the contrary, Dillon teaches sending outgoing requests that have as their source address an address of the SLIP provider. (*See* Dillon, col. 4, line 66 to col. 5, line 23). The outgoing requests include an IP packet that is encapsulated or tunneled inside another IP packet having a source address corresponding to the Internet Service Provider and a destination address

corresponding to the hybrid gateway 150. (*See Id.*). Although Dillon teaches that a request in a packet as initially formed has a source IP address corresponding to the satellite interface, this packet is encapsulated within another IP packet having a source address of the SLIP provider. Thus, requests issued from the hybrid terminal of Dillon have a source address corresponding to the SLIP provider regardless of any packets encapsulated therein. The system of Dillon makes use of a hybrid gateway 150 to unencapsulate packets, which slows the process by adding additional steps in the path between the hybrid terminal and an application server. (*See* Dillon, col. 5, lines 27-31).

In contrast with Dillon, the present invention according to claim 2 provides an asymmetric satellite based terminal device that sends to an ISP request data having a source address assigned to the NOC. Thus, as discussed on page 8 of the specification along with the embodiment of Fig. 1, return packets from an Internet host may be automatically routed to the NOC for rebroadcast via satellite to the terminal device without the request packets going through a hybrid gateway. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is not anticipated by Dillon and is allowable over the prior art of record.

With regard to claim 24, Dillon does not disclose or suggest at least configuring an Internet service provider to return data via terrestrial links. Dillon discloses a hybrid terminal 110 connected to an Internet Service Provider (SLIP provider 130). When IP packets sent from the hybrid terminal are received by the SLIP provider, it “uses standard Internet routing to send the packet to hybrid gateway 150.” Dillon, col. 5, lines 25-26. When the hybrid gateway receives it, it forwards an unencapsulated packet to an application server 140, which sends a response to the hybrid terminal via the satellite interface. *See Id.*, col. 5, lines 27-35. Thus, Dillon does not disclose or suggest returning packets to the hybrid terminal via terrestrial links.

In contrast with Dillon, claim 24 recites, *inter alia*, “[a] method comprising configuring an Internet service provider to return data requested by users from resources which are connected to a first hop via terrestrial links,” which is not disclosed or suggested by Dillon. Accordingly,

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 24 is not anticipated by Dillon and is allowable over the prior art of record.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejections

Claims 3-5, 7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Dillon in combination with either U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0007493 to Butler et al. (Butler) or U.S. Patent No. 5,850,218 to LaJoie et al. (LaJoie). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

As noted above, Dillon fails to teach or suggest that the hybrid terminal disclosed therein issues requests for web pages using an address of the NOC as a source address of the requests. In contrast with Dillon, independent claim 3 recites an asymmetric satellite system comprising a terminal device configured to send web page request data with a return address of the NOC, which is not disclosed or suggested by Dillon. Neither Butler nor LaJoie, either alone or in combination with Dillon, overcomes this deficiency. For at least this reason, claim 3 is allowable over Dillon in combination with either Butler or LaJoie. Because claims 4 and 5 ultimately depend from claim 3, they are also allowable over Dillon in combination with either Butler or LaJoie, and further in view of novel features recited therein.

Claim 7 recites an asymmetric satellite system comprising a terminal device configured to issue requests for web pages with a return address of a NOC, which is not disclosed or suggested by Dillon. Similarly, claim 9 recites an asymmetric satellite based terminal device configured to issue requests with a return address of the network operations center, which is not disclosed or suggested by Dillon. Neither Butler nor LaJoie, either alone or in combination with Dillon, overcomes these deficiencies. For at least this reason, claims 7 and 9 are allowable over Dillon in combination with either Butler or LaJoie.

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Conclusion

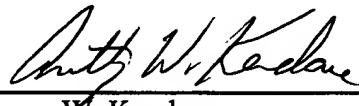
Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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